

# Mecklenburg COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force Recommended Actions Summary

Full report  
available at  
[mecknc.gov](https://mecknc.gov)

## Principles

No return to “business as usual.”

Guided by public health and scientific expertise.

Based on excellent public services, public investment and increased community resilience.

Address equity issues.

## Focus Areas

3 broad areas covering 10 COVID-19 impacts:

**Health**  
**Economy**  
**Community**

## Core Goal

**A recovery and renewal goal for each area**

## Strategies

**Driving forces to reach goal**

## Actions

**Specific steps forward**



## Focus Area: Health

**Impact areas:** Access to health care, eliminating disparities, mental and emotional health.

**Core Goal:** Reduced health disparities and inequities through expanded access to medical and mental health care.

### Strategy: Empower people with information.

- ▶ Health communications program.
- ▶ Annual COVID-19 data collection.
- ▶ Public health forums.
- ▶ Health-themed neighborhood art.
- ▶ Partner with community orgs. for outreach.
- ▶ Extend COVID-19 Ambassadors Program.

### Strategy: Build trust through grassroots and community connections.

- ▶ Directory of community-based org's. (CBO's).
- ▶ Partner with trusted community organizations.
- ▶ Expand community health workers program.
- ▶ Health information boards/stations.

### Strategy: Reduce time and distance barriers.

- ▶ Map/directory of clinics and health facilities.
- ▶ Mobile health care clinics.
- ▶ Health Transportation Service.
- ▶ Health Tailgate events.
- ▶ Medical Homes.

### Strategy: Reduce affordability barriers.

- ▶ Increase public funding for safety net providers.
- ▶ Expand scaled Mecklenburg County public health fees.
- ▶ Advocate to expand Medicaid in NC.
- ▶ Health care affordability study.

### Strategy: Enhance coordination across efforts.

- ▶ Digital health hub and data repository.
- ▶ Review use of MedLink resources.
- ▶ Heightened acute and chronic care resources.
- ▶ On-going COVID Renewal public body.

### Strategy: Prioritize cultural awareness.

- ▶ Expanded diverse worker recruitment.
- ▶ Cultural competency training.
- ▶ Patient service and cultural survey.
- ▶ Culturally-based health education modules.

### Strategy: Expand and promote mental health and substance abuse treatment options.

- ▶ Expand County mental health supports.
- ▶ Mental health communications campaign.
- ▶ Increase mental health supports for children, young adults, educators and staff.
- ▶ Adopt Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model (CCBHC).
- ▶ Increase resources for substance abuse treatment and care.



## Focus Area: **Economy**

**Impact areas:** Economic recovery including small business help, jobs and workforce development, housing and homelessness, arts and culture.

**Core Goal:** Near-term economic needs driven by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis are met and resources have been invested to reduce or eliminate economic disparities.

**Strategy: Provide aid and assistance for affordable housing, support for renters, homeowners, landlords, and people experiencing homelessness in our community.**

- ▶ Continue assistance to challenged renters and landlords.
- ▶ Increase support to organizations providing crisis assistance.
- ▶ Expand leasing deposit and fee waiver programs.
- ▶ Increase tenant rights, responsibilities and resource awareness.
- ▶ Advocate to change background checks and criminal history as rental criteria.
- ▶ Prioritize HOPE program efforts by zip code/area.

**Strategy: Increase access to work and employment opportunities by reducing technological, transportation and workforce barriers.**

- ▶ Revisit the Opportunity Task Force recommendations to grow economic mobility.
- ▶ Invest more to close the digital divide.
- ▶ Require public broadband in County spaces.
- ▶ Additional rounds of Open for Business programs.
- ▶ Incentivize training/hiring second-chance workers.
- ▶ More job training, workforce prep and placement supports.
- ▶ Higher investments in local infrastructure.

**Strategy: Increase support for artists and the organizations that support them.**

- ▶ Expand Culture Blocks funding for artist employment.
- ▶ Community arts centers in challenged areas.
- ▶ Increase Arts & Science Council funding for arts equity, inclusion, access.
- ▶ Develop strategy for artist housing.



## Focus Area: **Community**

**Impact areas:** Non-profit recovery and human services, education and childcare, food security, working families.

**Core Goal:** Critical needs of Mecklenburg County residents, especially those most economically challenged, historically underserved and vulnerable, are met equitably.

**Strategy: Prioritize aid to NGO's and agencies meeting needs outside of center city Charlotte.**

- ▶ Increase resources for non-profit organizations outside Charlotte city footprint.
- ▶ Expand awareness, use and resources of 211.
- ▶ Create a non-profit digital partnership hub.
- ▶ Establish non-profit/grassroots mentorship program.

**Strategy: Bolster community food security efforts and reduce the footprint of food deserts.**

- ▶ More small pop-up markets, gardens, mobile fresh food buses.
- ▶ Increase awareness of fresh food resources and locations.
- ▶ Expand transportation options connecting people to food resources.
- ▶ Bolster volunteer recruitment and deployment resources for food providers.
- ▶ Partner with trusted organizations serving undocumented residents.